

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
22 JUNE 1968

1. Korea

The South Koreans are tightening security even further in view of increased North Korean infiltration. There is some suspicion in Seoul that the North Koreans may try to stage a serious incident around 25 June, the day the Korean War began in 1950, or 27 July, the anniversary of the armistice.

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Early this morning seven North Korean infiltrators were killed in a series of clashes along the Demilitarized Zone. For their part, the North Koreans are claiming they sank "an enemy spy boat" in the Yellow Sea.

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2. Soviet Union

Moscow's foreign aid expenditures are holding at about the \$2 billion a year level reached in 1967. Big tab items are:

--About \$700 million in military and economic aid to North Vietnam;

--Over \$300 million to replace Arab military equipment; and

--Some \$500 million to keep the Cuban economy afloat.

3. Panama

As predicted, Robles has rescinded the decree of 18 June that would have permitted ships flying the Panamanian flag to trade with Communist countries. The decree had been pushed by the finance minister as retaliation for alleged US support of Arias.

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4. Czechoslovakia- Italy

Prague asked the French for a \$100 million loan last month and more recently approached the Italians for an unspecified amount.

When they talked to the Italians, the Czechs said their prospects for a hard currency loan from Moscow were extremely poor, although the Russians were offering some help in the form of goods.

The French reaction is unknown, but the Italians seem willing to give the Czechs either a cash loan or credit for use in buying Italian products.

5. Philippines

The United States Intelligence Board has approved a National Intelligence Estimate on the Prospects for the Philippines. This estimate concludes that:

--Marcos has been unable to rise above a political system dominated by a wealthy and conservative oligarchy unresponsive to the needs of the people.

--Prospects for reform are not promising. Although the left does not pose an immediate threat, it may be able eventually to convert apathy and resignation into active opposition.

--Philippine frustrations are likely to have an increasingly anti-American cast.

--Nevertheless, the US-Philippine alliance is the cornerstone of Marcos' foreign policy and the Filipinos will continue to look to the US for security guarantees.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only**

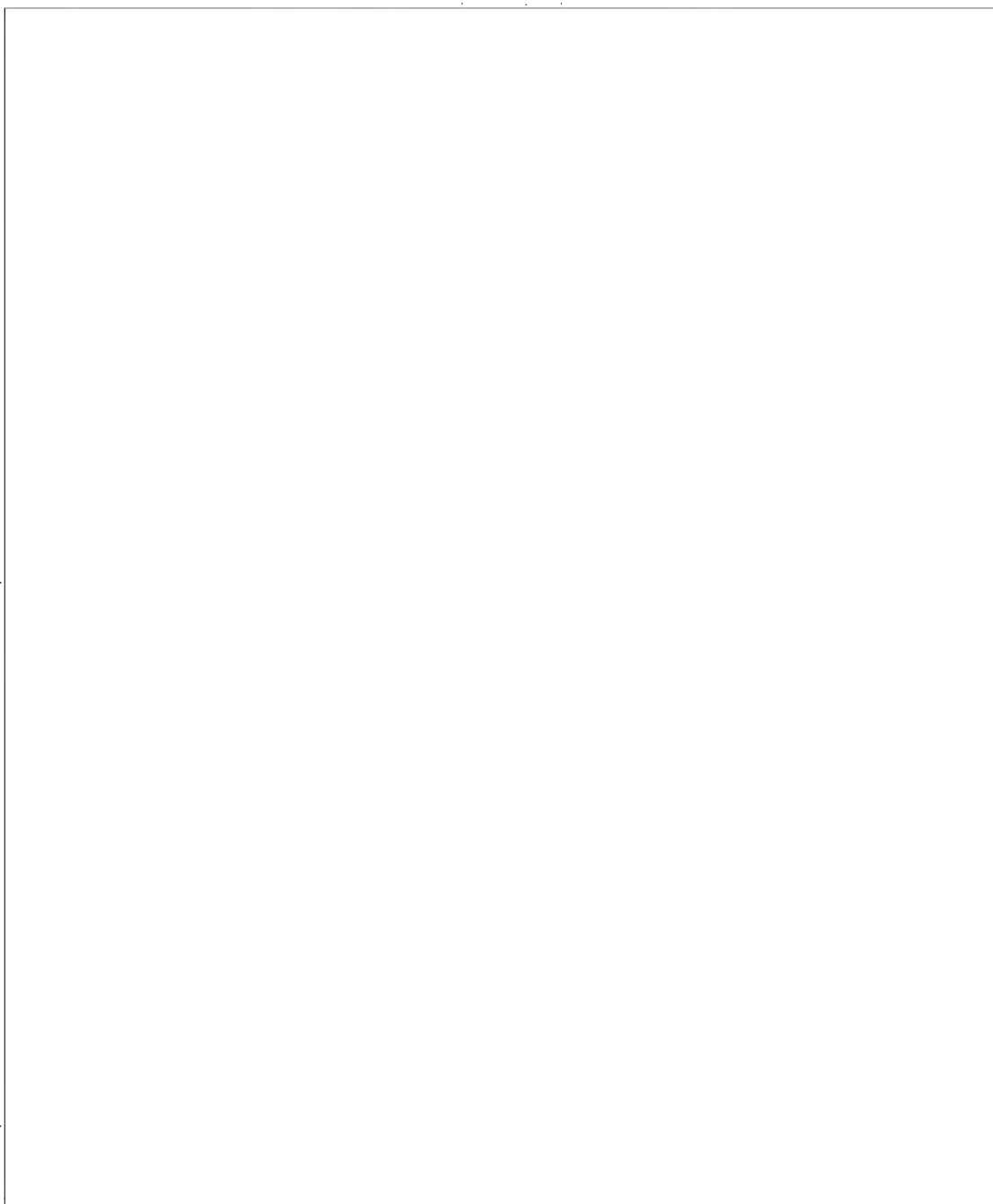
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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More on the "Right to Fight": The Liberation Front representative in Budapest has echoed Hanoi's line proclaiming the right of "all Vietnamese" to join the struggle in the South. In a press conference on 19 June, Dinh Ba Thi, the Front representative, declared that it was "the right of the Vietnamese people

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as a whole to fight against the enemy with united forces." Thi said that the Front, which "fully supports" Hanoi's position in the Paris talks, is relying primarily on its own strength, but acknowledged that the Viet Cong are receiving "all-around" assistance from their "brothers in the North."

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Press Office in Paris: The Liberation Front people who came to Paris last week to open a press office are beginning to receive a little more publicity. The press officer of the North Vietnamese delegation at the Paris talks acknowledged their presence in his press conference on Thursday

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The Front officials have been warned that the French expect to monitor all their releases for attacks against the French Government or any of its allies.

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New Landing Craft for the North: Recent photography shows that the Chinese are sending armed landing craft to North Vietnam. Photography of 2 June shows two boats at Haiphong. They apparently have been there since at least October 1967.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Radio Quotes War Opponents: In a broadcast entitled "Many US Organizations and Personalities Condemn US Aggression in Vietnam," Hanoi domestic radio reported on 19 June that Senator Stephen Young and former Ambassador John Kenneth Galbraith had publicly denounced President Johnson's Vietnam policy on separate occasions. According to the broadcast, Senator Young in a Senate speech on 17 June declared that the war is "unconstitutional and immoral," and has "no congressional approval." He is said to have likened the South Vietnamese refugee camps he had seen on a recent trip to Vietnam to the concentration camp at Dachau and "other death camps of the Hitlerite Fascists in Germany."

The broadcast reported that Galbraith had "vigorously criticized" the administration's Vietnam policy at a meeting held on 15 June by the National Council of Americans for Democratic Action.

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